

[25 April, 2001]

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adequate safety of the people of North Eastern Region besides the security of the Region which *inter alia* includes, deployment of Central Para Military Forces and Army; improved coordination and sharing of intelligence between the security forces; modernization/ upgradation of State Police forces; reimbursement of security related expenditure; sanction of Special Central Assistance to the State Governments; declaration of the most seriously affected area as 'disturbed areas' and notification of the major insurgent groups as 'unlawful associations'. The situation is also kept under watch and is reviewed from time to time for taking appropriate action. Government have also renewed their appeal to militant groups to come forward for talks. Government have also committed to speedy economic development of the North Eastern States. Government have also approached the Government of Myanmar for cooperation and they have assured that they will not allow their territory to be used by extremist elements. An Action Plan has been committed by the State Government of Manipur in January, 2001 in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs to improve the security scenario in the State.

Role of Ministry's Official in Tehelka Case

4279. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Director level officer in the Ministry of Home Affairs has been suspended for his alleged role in the Tehelka expose without waiting for his reply to the show cause notice recently;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) whether Government also knew that the suspended official was a controversial person before his suspension; and

(d) if so, how he was allowed to occupy such a sensitive post in the Home Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Following publication

of a news item about the alleged role played by an officer of the Ministry of Home Affairs in a conspiracy to discredit the Government, the office room of the officer was searched by the Chief Vigilance Officer of the Ministry in his (the officer's) presence. Based on the documents seized from his room, it was considered appropriate to place him under suspension. A show cause notice was also served to him. His reply to the notice is being examined.

(c) and (d) The suspected complicity of the said officer in an incident of leakage of classified information by another officer to unauthorised persons is separately under investigation. However, the said officer had not been occupying a sensitive post in the Ministry.

Involvement of P. W.G. and M.C.C. in Extremist Activities in Border Areas

4280. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the involvement of P.W.G. and M.C.C. in extremist activities and individual killings in the Border areas of West Bengal and Jharkhand;

(b) if so, whether Government are also aware that the P.W.G. was also active in Garbeta P.S. Area of Midnapur District in West Bengal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the response of Government to the statements by P.W.G. spokesmen both from Kolkata and Hyderabad to this effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) The Government is aware of the efforts being made by the CPML-PW and MCC to increase their areas of influence and expand their base in various States including West Bengal and Jharkhand. Activities of the MCC and CPML-PW have been noticed in the districts of West Bengal which are adjacent to Jharkhand, including in Garbeta P.S. area of Midnapore district.